Exeter Falls Dr
Rockingham
88

Secondly We have set off to Simon Sanborn Son of the Said Testate for his half of the Remaining two thirds Awarding to his Fathers Will; That part of the Land of said homestead on the Northerly side of the fore described widows third from end to end except about three quarters of an Acre as prick'd out in the aforesaid Plan around the Westerly part of the Buildings Mark'd in Said Plan with the Letter G which Contains twenty two Acres & 69 Rods Mark'd in the Plan with the Letters A & D.

Thirdly We have Set off to Elisabeth Sanborn Widow of Henry-Dearbun Sanborn for her half of Said two thirds agreable to Said Will that part of Said Homestead which lyes Southward of the before described widows third of Land of Said homestead from end to end Containing Twenty Seven Acres & 136 Rods as prick'd on the Plan aforesaid which Share is Mark'd therein with the Letters C & F. Also about three quarters of an Acre on the Westerly end & Round about the Buildings, Bounding as follows (viz) Beginning at a Stake against the Middle of the house at the back Side thereof by Jones's fence & running Westerly by said fence 8 Rods to a Stake: thence South about 2 Deg. East 16 Rods ½ to to a Stake by a great Rock — Thence N. 82 Deg. East 5 Rods even with the Middle of the Barn — Thence Northerly on a Strait line to the Middle of the Barn 8 Rods 7 Links to the Barn & thro' extending the Same Course one Rod Northward from the Barn, & from thence on a Strait line to the middle of the foredoor of the house, & then thro' the Middle of the house (taking in the middle Entry room) to the Stake at the back Side first mentioned; which piece is mark'd in the Plan with Letter G. Containing the Westerly half of the Buildings which we have Set to the Said Widow of Henry D. Sanborn with the Privilege of the Lane out to the Road & the use of the Well & the Lane down into the pasture & thro' the other Shares into her own Pasture for which the other two Share are to have Annexed to them the privilege into Said lane down into the pasture thro' her Small Share by the house; & also thro' part of her South Share into their field as they Shall have Occasion, & each to have equel privilege of the use of the Burying place in Said South Share as there Marked out upon Said Plan two Rods Square.

This have We Made the Division of the Homestead farm of the Said William Sanborn Deceased &c.

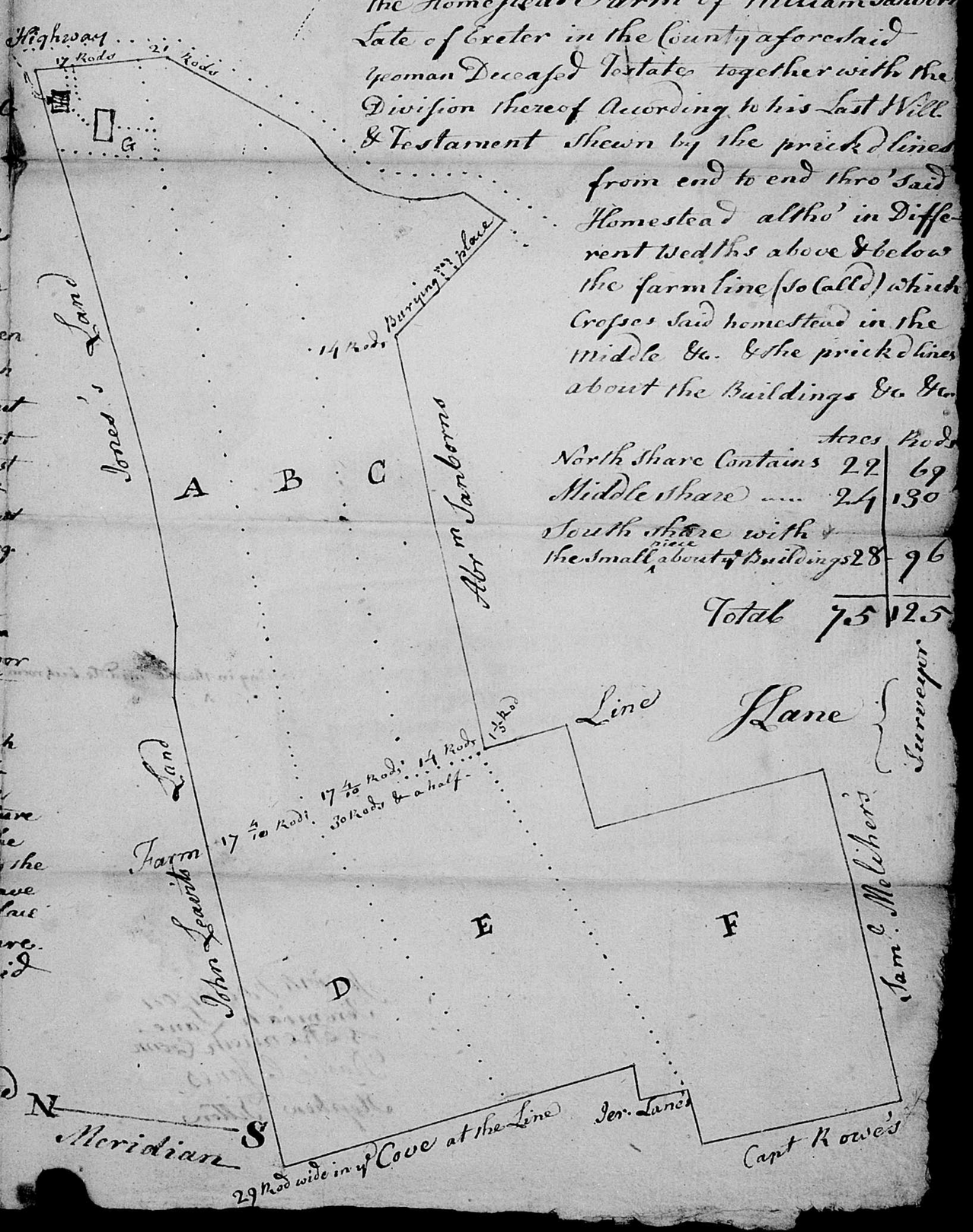
And this We Make as a Return of our doings herein: Dated at Hampton this 26th Day of Dec.r 1783.

Joseph Robinson
Jeremiah Lane
Jeremiah Conn
Daniel Jones
Stephen Tilton
(Committee)

Rockingham ss

This Plan Referr'd to in the foregoing Return Exhibits the true form of the Land & Situation of the Buildings of the Homestead Farm of William Sanborn Late of Exeter in the County aforesaid yeoman Deceased Testate together with the Division thereof According to his Last Will & Testament Shewn by the prick'd lines from end to end thro' Said Homestead altho' in Different Wedths above & below the farm line (so Call'd) which Crosses Said homestead in the Middle &c. & the prick'd lines about the Buildings &c. &c.

	Acres	Rods
North Share Contains	22	69
Middle Share	24	130
South Share with the Small piece about the Buildings	28	96
Total	75	125



Also
Information
Missing

OLD SERIES.

No. 4029

Sanborn, Elizabeth

Kingston

1773 June 30

Hill missing	

"New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936," images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-32638-8303-68?cc=2040042&wc=M7MT-HTL:383109101,383146101 : accessed 8 June 2015), Rockingham > Case no 4843-4987 1782-1784 > image 994 of 1652; county courthouses, offices of register of probate, and historical societies, New Hampshire.

1806 Jacob s. Moulton sells to Joshua34 acres partly in Ex and partly in HF

1813 Abraham Pike (Moses son) gives to Joshua piece of land in Exeter bounded by Joshua Pike land

1872 Joshua dies and it appears that he never actually deeded his land to his son, Matthew

1873 Ezekiel Pike, John T.G. Pike and Matthew all sons of Joshua, die

1880/1890/1893 – Matthew S. as only son, inherits farm and all its debts so he and Helen start to auction off parcels including selling marshland, selling the field across the street to Cammett, etc.

1905/6 Roger S., Clara Pike and Helen & Wm Stone of Exeter retain rights to enter cemetery but otherwise sell farmland to Ella Keep and Arvis Lane with rights to Colcord to remove trees

1913 Keep and Lane sell to Joseph and Josephine Fortier

Fortiers sell to william Temple, Walter Temple, and Edward Temple and their wives land previously owned by Joshua and Matthew (retain the pasture but not the apples)

Temples, et al, sell to Matilda Kirkegard of Bedford (in 1910, she owns a nursery in MA)

1918 Kirkegard sells to Mitch O'Brien

1936 Mitch Obrien sells to Fred Cammett

1937 Mitch Obrien sells to Victoria Linscott who was from Poland and lived in Exeter; Mitch also attached deed for Ex/hampton Electric (1926) that passed from Linscott to Warners

1938 Victoria sells to Warners the same 160 acres conveyed to Mitch O'Brien by Matilda Kirkegard

Orlando and Vivian Yeaton Warner (Herman Yeaton (Vivian's father) was caretaker for farm in 1940

1941 Warner sells to luis Emilio same 160 acres, they are to keep cemetery up (land now bounded by James Riley and david Hawes, by Lewis sanborn & francis Hilliard, leonard smith, geo carlisle and newell Tilton and Michael Conner

1947 Emilio sells to Burwell 160 acres, 32A bounded by Rt 88 and Joseph Moulton and Mattew Pike, a 12 A parcel bounded by Thos Moulton, Clara Pike, Charles Smith and Thos Sanborn and 6 A woodlot – all is what Warner gave in 1941

1975 Burwell sells to Matarazzo

1987 Matarazzo sells to Paul McInnis – 12.5 acres

1999 McGinnis sells to Greg Sancoff

Greg sancoff sells to David Birdsall

2015 Birdsall sells to Heronfield

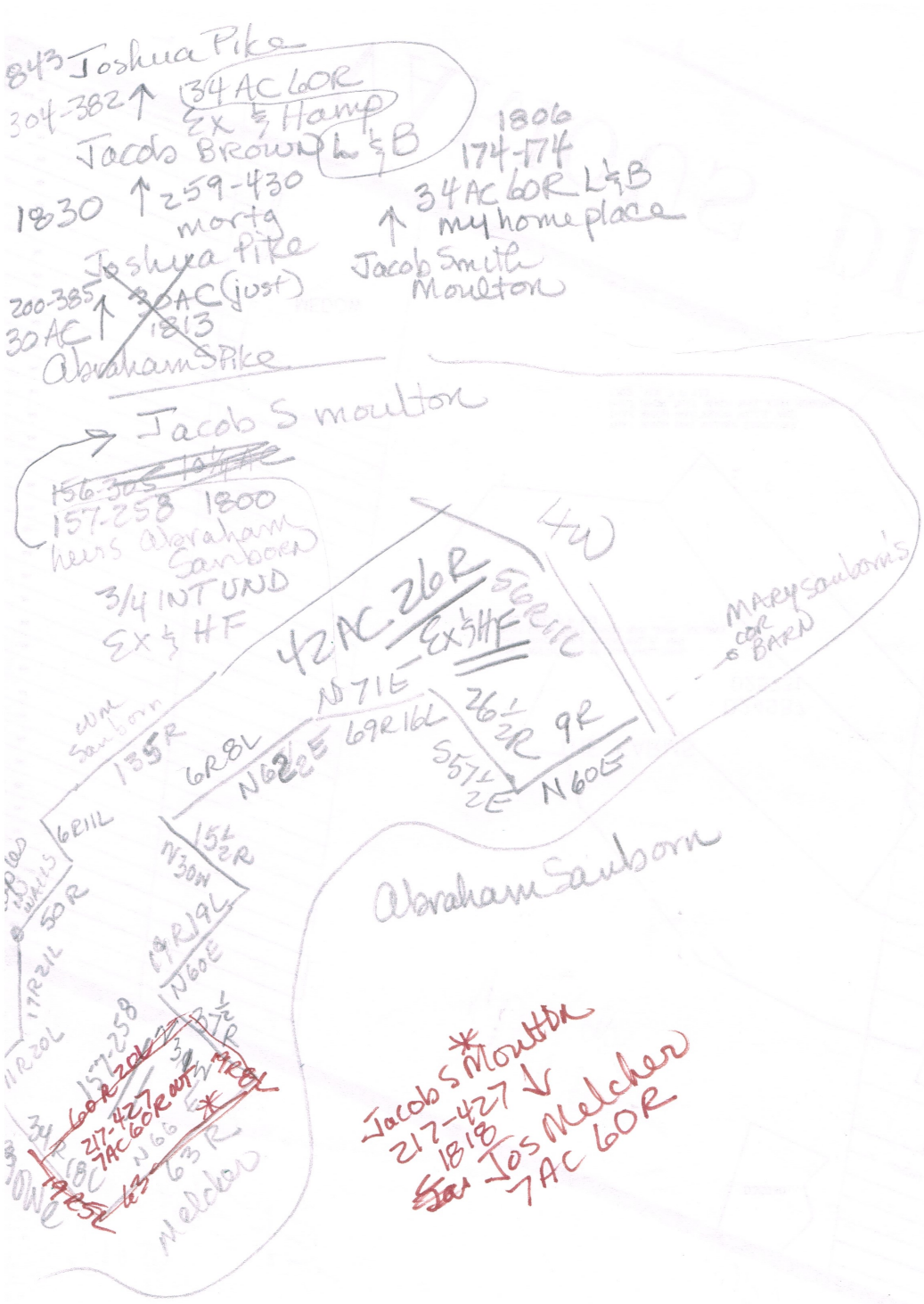
[P.78] We have Layd out Josiah Samborn three acres and an hundred & twenty Rod at the west end of his land next Exeter Line twelve Rod wide and fifty Rod Long. down to two Black ashes in full satisfaction for the Country Roode going through his half of the sixty acres that his father had of Foreshore.

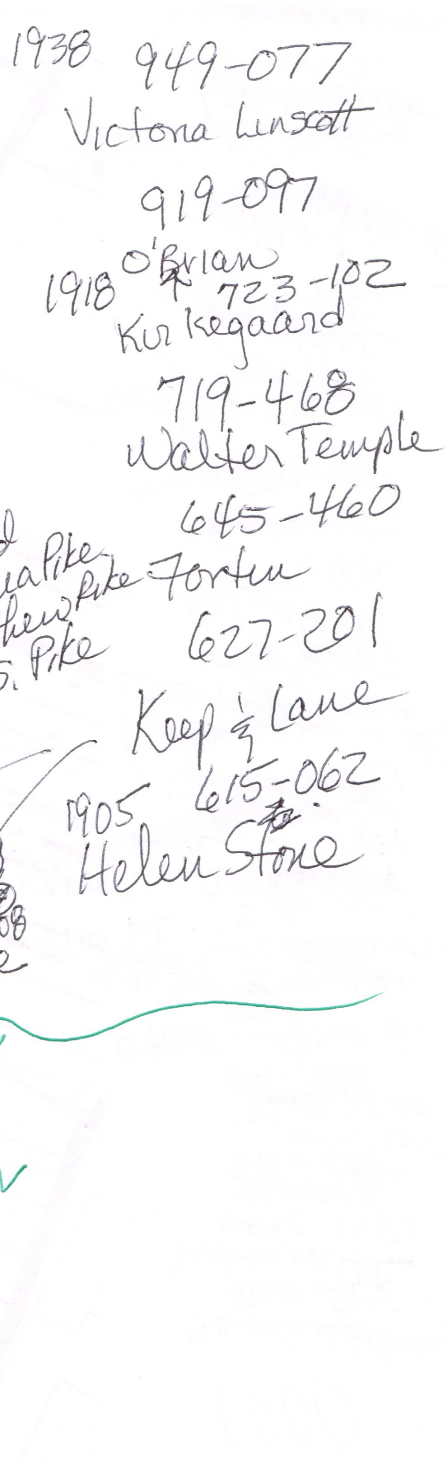
And we Layd out Stephen Samborn one acre and an hundred and forty four Rod at the West end of his land nine Rod and an half, in Breadth and thirty two Rod in length, to two Maples in full satisfaction for the way going through his Land there.

John Redman Jun
Samll Dow

November 30. =

[P. 80] According to our order from the Commoners of Hampton we Layd out to Nathaniel Samborn ten acres of Land where his house Stands 30 Rods farther





V 31

JOHN SANBORN 1692 HAMPTON

[Inventory of the estate of Lt. John Sanborn of Hampton, who died Oct. 20, 1692; taken by William Marston, Nathaniel Batchelder, Henry Dow, and Lt. John Smith Nov. 2, 1692; amount, £294.14.0; attested before John Hinckes by Henry Dow and Nathaniel Batchelder, planter, Feb. 22, 1692/3; signatures of Henry Dow and Nathaniel Batchelder.]

WILLIAM SANBORN 1692 HAMPTON

In the name of God Amen The Last Will & Testament of William Samborn of Hampton in the Province of New Hampshire in New England being sick and weak of Body * * *

Imprimis I give unto Mary my beloved Wife all my house hold stuffe, or Goods of all sorts (Excepting what is hereafter Excepted) for ever, Alsoe I give unto her yearely and every yeare dureing the time of her naturall life ffoureteen Bushells of Indian Corne, two bushells of Wheat, ffoure bushells of Malt one hundred & Sixty weight of Pork and One hundred pounds of Beefe all good and Marchantable the Milcke of two good Cows . . . & ten Load of good wood cutt fitt for hir ffire Roome, this to be payed yearely by my Son Stephen, Also I give unto her during the time of her naturall life one half of my dwelling house and Li— the Easterly end, to be kept in good repaire by my son Stephen and in case he shall neglect to performe the same according to the true intent and meaning hereof, then it shall be Lawfull for Mary my beloved wife to enter upon all these Lands Meadows Cattel and other things hereafter mentioned to be given to my son Stephen, and to improve the same to her owne use dureing her life and after to returne to my son Stephen again

Item I give unto my son Josiah one half of my Land in the Plaine towards Exeter the whole containing one hundred acres more or less neere a place sometimes called . . . nes Mephibosheth, and Stephen to devide the same into two pieces and Josiah to

Chuse which part he please Alsoe I give to my son Josiah the Marsh and Thatch belonging to one share . . . great Oxe Com'on Alsoe the Eastermost stack of Salt . . . the Severals (soe called) soe farr as we usually made . . . stack and soe Easterly to the River Alwayes Provideing Josiah is not to improve this Stack of Salt Marsh untill after . . . decease.

Item I give unto my son William the upland of the abovs'd Share of the great Oxe Com'on and one Cowe he haveing the rest of . . . already

Item I g . . . Son Mephebosheth my nine Acres of . . . in the East . . . house now standeth alsoe halfe a share of Cowe com . . . ty eight Acres of Land more or less the north . . . ed and one Quarter of my Land towards Exeter . . . . . the Indian Graves And after my Wifes decease I give to my Son Mephiboshoth the westermost Stack of Salt marsh in the Severals soe called, and half my ffresh meadow on the west side of the River towards the Beach being that side next Samuel Foggs meadow . . .

Item I give unto my son Stephen my Hor . . . . . Barne Orchard Also ten acres of Salt Marsh . . . the hopp ground halfe a Share of Cowe com . . . Acres of Land in the East ffeild near the Beach, . . . my ffresh meadow on the west side of the River being the northerly side . . . half an acre of Pasture neere William ffullers gate abutting neer the meeting house green, Alsoe one Share of the Great Cowe Com'on alsoe the other halfe of my ffresh meadow on the west side of the River and the two Stacks of Salt Marsh . . . to be given to Josiah and Mephiboshoth, to remaine . . . of my son Stephen untill my wifes Decease . . . Alsoe understood my wife during her life shall have . . . make use of the ffruit of the orchard for her owne . . . shall have occasion from time to time Also I give . . . Stephen all my Stock of Cattle of all sorts whatsoe . . . my Implements of husbandry Alsoe one Bed one . . . ugg all above menconed given to my son

[Probate Records, vol. 2, p. 1.]

LITTLE RIVER

ER RIVER

FIRST WEST DIVISION

OLD GRANTS

MEDOW

THE FARMS

D24987
D25731

D32915

D27744

D10729

D35527

D10534

D11649

OLD SWAMP

TIMBER SWAMP

QUARTER MILE- VARIOUS DIVISIONS

20 LOTS

D10138

D27500

EOURTH DIVIS
FEB 28 1722
THIRD RANGE

SECOND WEST DIVISION

ROUND

HOOSAC HILL

15 LOTS

16 LOTS

16 LOTS

16 LOTS

BOOK HILL

D35640

D16627

D3291[illegible]

D31073

THOMAS WARD

ISAAC GREEN

JON GARLAND

JOHN SWETT

JAMES FOGG

ASH BROOK

JOSEPH TILTON 013-195-1714

SALES TOWLE 013-195-1714

SAMUEL CASS

JON CLIFTON

CORNER BOUNDARY

Deb
926-9245

Sanborn-

100 AC
D 935

100 AC

THAT WHICH WAS WILLIAM SANBORNS,
THAT WHICH WAS WIDOW WALLS, AND
PART UPON THAT WHICH WAS JOHN HUGGINS
1702 VOL 7 P 133

THAT WHICH WAS WILLIAM SANBORNS,
THAT WHICH WAS WIDOW WALLS, AND
PART UPON THAT WHICH WAS JOHN HUGGINS
1702 VOL 7 P 133

D14508

JAMES MOULTON

uu??

tt??

MEDOW

VARIOUS DIVISIONS

1000
Heronfield Academy
5605-545
Exeter Rd LLC
4552-2454
Sanco
3402-2900
McINNIS TRUST
3218-2250
Priscella
D 9135 2701-1234
Paul
2696-344 2544-1061
Charlene M
Jas Mataraz
2380-1512
JM Bldg & Dev.
160 AC 2359-1989
Mataraz
1974 2255-122
Charles Burwell
2222-179 2032-54
2032-57
Bellweau
2032-95
Burwell
1570-484
Mary Hang
1570 y03
Burwell
1416-146
Young 1416-14
Burwell
1084-203
Lois V Emulio
Portion 904-42

The land along the line was there before the line was drawn. It was likely inhabited by Native Americans who did not believe in "owning" the land, but in honoring it, celebrating it and living in such a way that the resources of the land dictated the lifestyle of those who lived upon it. Our story, however, begins sometime after 1638, when both Hampton and Exeter had established town cow commons and centers of activity and various families had decided to stretch out into what was then known as "the wilderness" in search of fertile soil for growing, grazing and managing as they practiced the art of husbandry.

The job of setting the boundary line between Exeter and Hampton was given to committees of the General Court of Massachusetts. Why, one may wonder, was the General Court of Massachusetts involved since both of these towns are part of present-day New Hampshire? The reason lies in the fact that for about thirty six years, from 1643 until 1679, the towns of Haverhill, Salisbury, Exeter, Hampton, Portsmouth and Dover made up what was one of four original counties in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. During these years, land deeds and court records were all kept by Massachusetts and only later, when New Hampshire became a province, were Hampton, Exeter, Portsmouth and Dover transferred to New Hampshire. The other towns became part of Essex County, Massachusetts. This attempt to set the boundary of the eastern edge of Exeter and the western edge of Hampton was begun in May of 1643.
Setting boundaries is, perhaps, a bit like filling potholes – it takes a long time to accomplish and a much shorter time to fall apart. So, a little more than a year later in Sept. of 1644 the committee of surveyors was chosen but nothing more happened until 1646 in response to a petition by Exeter residents. A line was drawn which seemed to satisfy those on the Exeter side of the line. However, it was October 1651 before Hampton petitioned the General Court again for a committee to lay out the west end of their township....as if it had not already been requested and determined five years earlier. When Exeter heard what was afoot with their neighbors, they did not want to be left out in re-determining the bounds, so in 1651 when the General Court appointed commissioners for Hampton, Exeter also appointed a new survey committee. Their combined purpose was to:
"lay out the bounds between us and Hampton, to agitate and conclude with them, or to make their objections according to the court order, if they cannot agree." [1]

The conclusion of this "walking of the line" was that in October 1651, eight years after the work was first requisitioned, the terms were laid out thus:

"the west line shall run from the extent of the line formally agreed on to come within two miles of the Exeter meeting-house upon a direct line to that part of Ass brook where the highway goes over, and from thence upon a direct line so as to leave Exeter falls at the town bridge, a mile and a half due north of the same, and from thence upon a west and by north line as far as the utmost extent of Salisbury bounds that way."[2]

Hampton residents must have agreed in large measure with Exeter's terms, for in 1663, two brothers from Hampton, John and William Sanborn, grandchildren of Rev. Stephen Batchelder and founding members of Hampton, were appointed to serve on a committee tasked with surveying and laying out tracts of land starting at the western boundary of Hampton. William soon dropped off the committee, but the remaining members decided to have two divisions. The first was to give one hundred acres to every inhabitant that had two shares of common land. If a person had only one share of common land, then eighty acres would be given them at the western boundary. Three months later the committee had surveyed and laid out the tracts and given the divisions a name – The New Plantation.

1 p. 114 of Exeter history
2 p. 114/115, Exeter history

The General Court received in 1668, a report of the work of this committee which consisted now of Abraham Drake, Peter Johnson, James Philbrick and Joseph Dow. As part of the report on the divisions, the authors described the boundary line as "running from the foot of Exeter falls by the Grist mill, one and one half miles due south to the Hampton bound and from there along a west by north line, ten miles into the woods adjoining the Hampton bound." It seems the agreement had held.

In 1670, Hampton's first division (or the North Division) lots were numbered beginning at the Exeter line and proceeding easterly to the sea. But in that same year, in February 1670/71, a change was proposed to enlarge the bounds of Exeter on both the eastern and western ends. The new western boundary mark was to be re-determined by a committee and their task was described thus:

(the line between Hampton and Exeter, according to the Court order is) "to begin at the bound tree at Ass brook and so upon a direct line so as to leave Exeter falls a mile and a half due north of the same, and from thence upon a west and by north line to the extent of ten miles; and what these men or a major part of them shall do, shall stand in as good force as if the whole town were present."[3] No one really had enthusiasm for the project and they tarried until July of that year. Encouragement for the task came when they received an added instruction: if anyone refused to go, he was to pay ten shillings. Even with such added incentive, the project was not fully completed, and to all parties acceptable until April of 1672. For the next 65 years or so, the process of granting parcels of land occurred in a fairly orderly manner until 1740, when the town concluded that every resident had received his grant of land, allowing for certain tracts that remained common land. The plots were not numbered on the Exeter side of the boundary line. They were on the Hampton side, but it took Hampton at least thirty years before all of the divisions of land in the New Plantation were recorded.

Hampton had originally determined four divisions with the first lot abutting Salisbury, Hampton's old neighbor in the Norfolk County establishment, and the last division abutting Exeter. Each lot was 160 rods long (one half mile) and varied in width. By 1702, they had laid out at least twelve divisions. To their dismay, they discovered that lots 7 through 10 adjoined the boundary line with Exeter, but lot eleven was separated from the line by a few lots from division twelve. In the ninth division, there were some old grants discovered dating back before 1670, and between lots ten and eleven were several farms containing altogether about four hundred acres. A dozen years later, Exeter and Hampton had a small dispute with one another along the line, so they met at the Ass Brook tree, talked or perhaps walked it out and determined that the 1642/3 bounds ought to hold. It appears to have done so ever since this date.

In March of 1673, less than a year after the Exeter committee had finished its work of redetermining the western and eastern bounds of the town, "John Ffulsham of Exeter conveyed to William Sanborne thirty acres in Hampton abutting on Exeter bounds." [4] It is difficult to know if this land was part of what later became the Sanborn family farm, but it is one of the earliest land transactions that relies on the boundary line, seemingly now settled. John Folsom was one of the earliest settlers of Exeter and was involved in such tasks as marking the trees set aside for the King, determining the boundaries of town and serving in several capacities as a church leader. William was one of the early members of the Hampton Committee chosen to set the western edge of the Hampton boundary line. Perhaps both men knew a good piece of land when they saw one and perhaps a good neighbor as well. William Sanborn's son, Mephibosheth, in 1699, about seven years after hi father had died, sold to Samuel Melsher (Melcher) of Hampton, carpenter, fifteen acres of the tract his father bought of John Foulsam of Exeter. Later we shall meet Samuel Melcher who lived in Hampton Falls next door to the land on the line.

3 p. 118 ibid.
4 Sanborn Genealogy, p. 80.

John Samborne is thought to be the father of the first Sanborn immigrants to arrive in America – William, John and Stephen. He was a merchant with ties were in Dorsetshire where Rev. Stephen Bachilor, first pastor of the Hampton Congregational Church, lived. Rev. Bachilor's daughter, Ann, married John Samborne, but was already a widow by 1630/31. Therefore, when Rev. Bachilor set sail aboard the William and Francis, for America in 1638, his grandsons, John, William and Stephen were with him. There are no indications that his daughter actually made the trip since there are no records to that effect. But all of her sons had house lots by 1644 and all held public offices. It is to William, born in England in 1622, to whom we turn our attention first.

As of Hampton records from 1639, William Sanborn was appointed to ring the bell before meeting on the Lord's day and other days, for which he is to have "6d. Per lott of eury one hauing a lotte within the towne." He was granted a house lot on the road towards the sea and served many times as a selectman. He also fought in King Philip's War and was captured by the Indians in 1675. William married Mary, daughter of John Moulton of Hampton and together they had eight children. In 1692, William, who had been one of Hampton's founding fathers, died by drowning. At his death in 1692, William Sanborn left a will, of which only fragments are still preserved. In his will, he leaves to son, Josiah, "one half my land..in the plaine towards Exeter, the whole containing 100A more or less neere a place sometimes called.....nes" and he also leaves his son, Mephebosheth, "eight acres more or less in north....and one quarter land (twenty five acres) towards Exeter...the Indian graves." [5] One wonders exactly where the Indian graves might have been and whether any sign of them remains today.

Josiah, William's second son, was born in 1654 and lived in Hampton. He was a well-to-do man and like his father, served in local government as a representative. He also owned part of a sawmill in 1693. Josiah married first, Hannah Moulton, daughter of William and second, Sarah Perkins, widow of Jonathan. He died in 1728. Before his death, he made three grants of land to his sons William and Jabez and his grandson, Daniel.

In his first grant, wherein he is named a planter, Josiah gives to William Sanborn, his son, "the one half of my Lott, be the one half twenty acres more or less when it shall be Eaqually Devided the whole of Land was Some time purchased by my Honoured ffather William Samborn of Hampton aforesaid Late Deceased and part of it given to me the said Josiah Samborn as by his last will and Testament may more fully appear and now the one half of my right in that place I have give unto my Son William Samborn as above Sd. The above mentioned Lott of Land is Lying and being within the bounds of the Township of Hampton as above Sd in a place near, and adjoyning to the Comon Road way that goeth from hampton falls comonly so called to Exeter Town Lying adjoyning to the Line between Hampton Commons and Exeter, the Said William Samborn to have his half adjoyning unto Exeter line next to the Land of Theophilas Smith and other Land of Exeter mens." 1st of April 1701.[6]

William would have been only eighteen years old at the time. Mention is made that this parcel adjoins that of Theophilus Smith who had married into the Stanyon family, a well-known Hampton falls family. William married four years later, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Dearborn and one can assume they lived on these twenty acres.

In 1713, Josiah gives to his other son, Jabez, the second land grant which was the other half of the lot of Land where his son William had been dwelling since 1701. Jabez had been born in 1691 and his first wife is unknown. His second wife,Abial Marston, was the youngest daughter of Ephraim Marston, brewer. Abial and Jabez had ten children, many of whom did not remain in Hampton Falls. Jabez'

5 NH Provincial and State papers, p.

6 Sanborn genealogy , p. 89

"half" of the parcel contained thirty or forty acres more or less rather than twenty which was given to his brother, William. Josiah did reserve from this parcel a "small piece of an acre or Something more which is an Orchard Lying Southward of William's Barn for ever to be at my Dispose – as allso a piece of Land about three or fouer acres of pasture which my said Son William hath cleared which my Said Son William is to have ten years, and then it shall Return to my said Son Jabez." [7]

As it happened, Willliam did not live out those ten years in which it was hoped he might make use of that three or four acres of pastureland. He died April 3, 1718, perhaps shot by the Indians. Rev. Cotton's records indicate that Elizabeth, William's daughter, born on April 30, 1718 just three weeks after "her father's awful death", was baptized in the Hampton Congregational Church.

After William's death, Josiah granted to Daniel Samborn, William's son, "a certain tract of upland Lying in the above said Town of Hampton in a place called Samborn's farm Vis: one eigth part of the farm formerly William Samborns Deceased, being ten acres more or less as it is bounded on the West or Westerly on the Land formerly mine and Given by me to my Son William Samborn Deceased and on the East or Easterly Land of Jabez Samborn runing over the way towards the north."[8] Daniel, the second of six children born to William and Elizabeth, was the third recipient of a land parcel from his grandfather, Josiah, a piece now known as the "Sanborn Farm" - the land on the line.
At this point Daniel was only ten years of age, likely growing up on the half share of land which his father, William, owned and perhaps using his uncle, Jabez, who lived on the other half share, as his father figure. His grandfather, Josiah, died in 1728, just before Daniel came of age but not before Josiah had granted one final piece of land in 1720 to Nicholas Gilman. Nicholas was an Exeter farmer and merchant who in 1729 became a justice of the Court of Common Pleas and later a judge of the Superior Court. Nicholas owned a great many parcels of property as well as several slaves. The parcel was four and one half shares (#218, 219, 220, 221). The first two shares had been given to Josiah and William Sanborn, possibly when Hampton's New Plantation shares were being divided and the second two shares were lots that had belonged to John Knowles of Hampton and Abraham Green, son of Henry Green, Councillor and Judge, also of Hampton. Other connections that materialized among Josiah's grandchildren included: the marriage of Josiah's grand-daughter, Hannah, to John Folsom of Exeter. John owned a tavern with his brother quite near the line land on the Exeter side. Josiah's first grandson, Ezekiel, married Elizabeth Melcher, daughter of Samuel Melcher, who owned a parcel of land that lay in back of Josiah's homestead where it stretched to Drinkwater Road.

It appears that Daniel's uncle, Jabez Sanborn, son of Josiah and Hannah Moulton, was the first to truly establish a homestead on the line land. Jabez was a brewer who married Abial Marston in 1715/16 . Abial was the youngest daughter of Ephraim Marston who was also a brewer. Ephraim was a distinguished man, owned several plots of land and had a fruit orchard. As brewers, it is possible that Jabez and Abial had some of their land cultivated to grow hops.
Among their children was Abraham, born in 1729. He would later inherit the farm from his father, but not before other parcels of the land were granted. One such parcel was granted to Jabez from Moses Norris of Exeter in 1719. Honorable Moses Norris was a U.S. Senator from NH and the land he sold Jabez is described as lying near Ass brook (7 acres), all of the two and one half shares in the first west division. The seven acres lay at the south end abutting the road between Hampton Falls and Exeter near land belonging to Thomas Chase of Hampton. Fifteen acres of the shares were excepted because Robert Wadleigh owned them and they lay at the north end of the two and one half shares. Robert Wadleigh was from Exeter and played a prominent role in finding the first pastor for the Exeter church. Theophilus Smith and Frances Stanford were neighbors. Theophilus Smith was also involved in the

7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.

life of the Exeter church and Frances Stanford was the wife of a clothier in Exeter. Three years later, in 1722, Captain Joseph Tilton gave land to Jabez lying partly in Hampton Falls and partly in Exeter abutting John Sanborn and Jabez Sanborn's other land and David Tilton's land. David was from Hampton Falls, the son of blacksmith, Daniel and brother to Joseph Tilton..

In April of 1739, Jabez sold to William Sanborn, his uncle of Exeter two parcels of land. The first piece contained two acres beginning at a Stake standing on the westerly side of the "Cuntry Road which Leadeth from Exeter to Hampton falls." It seems that this piece was bounded by Williams barn, his dwelling place and his well. The second piece, containing 148 rods, was taken out of a three acre plot laid out to Josiah Sanborn, Jabez' father, at the "west end of his land next to Exeter line for satisfaction of said Cuntry Road going through his Land." This transaction to compensate for land taken up by what is today, Route 88, happened just as the town of Exeter had concluded their lot dispersal, believing that every resident had received an acceptable plot.
Seven years later, in 1746, Jabez, "for affection for Son Ephrim Samburn of H.F. Yeoman" gave him land in Exeter, 37 acres. (The American Sanborns, p. 105) Ephraim may not have enjoyed this land for long because he died in 1748 in Epping, NH. Abraham, Ephraim's brother, became the guardian of his two youngest children, Mary and Jeremiah, upon his death.

So the land on the line has come down from William to Josiah, from Josiah to his sons, William and Jabez and now Jabez, as he nears death, is ready to pass on this land on the line to his son, Abraham Sanborn. Abraham was born in 1729 and he married Mary Parsons of Amesbury, MA. Together they had at least four children. Abraham must have enjoyed working the land because in 1755, Jabez, granted to his son, Abraham, the land and farm and orchard with ½ of the barn and ½ of the house. It is likely that this arrangement allowed Jabez and Abial to remain on the homestead as they aged and Abraham continued to farm. Abraham, would have been about 26 when he received this grant. In 1760, by deed, Jabez granted all the rest of the Sanborn farm to his son, Abraham, and then passed away in 1761. Tristam, Abraham's son and Mary and Theodate, his daughters, were born after he became heir to the entire parcel of land.

Jabez' grant to Abraham of the "home place" in 1760/61 came with a plot of salt marsh where Abraham could cut hay for the animals, all the buildings, except for ½ of the house which Jabez granted to his wife with wood for one fireplace. According to the will, Abraham was to inherit the cattle, sheep, swine, all the husbandry utensils, wearing apparel, a feather bed and iron kettle. In exchange, he was to provide his mother with a horse so she could ride to meeting and he was to pay all the funeral debts. The will was witnessed by Benjamin Cram, Samuel Melcher and Theophilus Smith. Abraham must have stayed on the land and farmed for the next 15 years, before he enlisted in Captain Rowe's Company in 1775 to fight in the Revolutionary War. There he rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He then re-enlisted the following year as a Lieutenant in Capt. William Prescott's Co. in the N.Y. Campaign. Abraham must have returned to the homestead after his service, perhaps to continue farming the line property.

Over the next twenty years, Abraham Sanborn was on the receiving end of several parcels of land. In 1783, Benjamin Robinson granted him a parcel. In 1787 it was Abigail Folsom who granted him 15 acres. Later, in 1788, Abraham received another parcel of Jabez' estate and in 1797, Moses Pike granted Abraham 10 acres bounded by Jeremiah Lane and Simeon Sanborn . Just before he died, Abraham was granted land from Hilliard Sanborn in Kensington, five acres bounded by Mehitable Giddings and Captain Jonathan Tilton. Abraham died in 1798 and was the only Sanborn to be buried in the family plot on the property. Later, through the purchases of land parcels made by Moses Pike, the husband of Abraham's daughter, Theodate, and their subsequent farming of the property the cemetery

became known as the Pike family cemetery.

The Pikes on the Land

Theodate, daughter of Abraham and Mary Sanborn married Moses Pike just 6 years before Abraham died. Moses was a blacksmith as was his father, Benjamin Pike. Benjamin was born in 1742 and married Hannah Hook in 1767. They both hailed from Salisbury, MA. Benjamin Pike moved to Hampton Falls where he served a term as selectman. He lived in John Batchelder's house which had been built by Peter Weare in 1712. This house was also lived in by Jonathan Moulton, father of Jacob Smith Moulton. It is interesting to note that two fathers, Benjamin Pike and Jonathan Moulton lived in the same home and later their two sons, Joshua Pike and Jacob Smith Moutlon shared the same "home place." Moses and Joshua, however were not Benjamin Pike's only children. There were eleven children in all, many of whom grew up to become quite active in their communities. Jacob, was a builder; and Nathan, a shoemaker, a tithing man and someone to whom people brought their sick animals for treatment. Another son, Sewell Pike, was the father of Rev. Daniel Pike of Newburyport who was ordained at the Unitarian Church in Hampton Falls and John who was a local cattle dealer. Caleb Pike traveled to Maine. In 1810, he was one of five pioneers who settled the town of Alexander< Maine. Maine archives reveal that he bought, in 1812, lot 76 for $160. He didn't stay long, however, for his name appears on the tax list at Campobello Island, just over the bridge from Machias, Maine by 1823. Benjamin Pike also had a daughter, Betsy, who married Joseph Tilton of Exeter and a daughter, Nancy who died unmarried.

Moses, it seems, did a lot of land granting and receiving during his lifetime. It is correct to imagine that many of these parcels of land changed hands within the family and extended family. Before 1800 almost all of the transactions surrounding the "land on the line" occurred primarily within the Sanborn family. From 1800 forward, the Pike family began to intertwine with the Sanborns as land-holders of what had been known as Sanborn farm and as in-laws to the Sanborn family. In 1800 Moses Pike sold to Jacob S. Moulton land from Hannah Sanborn's estate. Hannah was a sister of Abraham's who married a Conner. Since Moses Pike, born in 1770, had married Theodate Sanborn, it is likely that Moses acted as agent with Theodate to sell her father's land after his death in 1798. Jacob S. Moulton also received land in 1800 from Benjamin Shaw who was Theodate's brother-in-law (husband of her sister, Mary). In 1804, a very detailed map was drawn of the landholders in Exeter at the time. Down in the bottom corner of the map, where the town line between Hampton Falls and Exeter is noted, we see that M. Pike owns land that runs right along the line. Nearby is Moulton's house and barn and W.S. Sanborn.

Over the next two decades, Moses Pike's brother, Joshua Pike, is the landholder who becomes the prominent owner of the land on the line. Born nine years after his brother, Moses, Joshua was a fine frame maker and builder. He built Colonel Lane's windmill which was a tall, 8-sided building. He built several homes in Exeter, including a home in Stratham, in 1827, which was a fine Federal style hip roof home. Josiah Bartlett, a prominent man in politics and his son who was a well-respected medical doctor lived there until it was later sold to the Cushman family. Joshua was a member of the Line Church in Seabrook for a time which was known as the First Evangelical Congregational Church of Seabrook and Hampton Falls. He later withdrew from this congregation and went to the Exeter Congregational Church. He also served with a military unit that went to Portsmouth in 1814, ordered there to defend against the British.

It appears that Joshua receives from his father, Benjamin Pike, 18 acres in Hampton Falls with a house and barn, formerly Steven Cram's, that was bounded by Aaron Merrill and Benjamin's land from Jonathan Moulton. This transaction of land from Benjamin to Joshua occurred in 1802. In 1803,

Joshua married Hannah Worthen from Kensington, daughter of Enoch Worthen and Jane Quimby and together they had at least nine children. Several among them were builders, including Daniel who was actually killed moving a building in Newton, MA in 1846. Andrew and George S. were builders or carpenters, as was Ezekiel. John T.G. And Elvin J. were doctors. John lived and practiced in Boston. Matthew, the second oldest son, became the only farmer. Joshua also had two daughters, Sarah who married True Prescott of Hampton Falls and Linda who married Phineas Chase of Stratham. Joshua built a beautiful house on the old Sanborn farm, finishing it in 1812. He also helped build Nathan Moulton's house in 1816. Nathan Moulton was the son of Thomas Moulton and although a farmer, he took great enjoyment in delivering his produce on vessels he built in Exeter. He sailed potatoes to Philadelphia and hops to Canada and then bought chickens which he sailed to market in Massachusetts. He was often referred to by his nickname, "Turkey Moulton."

In 1806, Jacob Smith Moulton, son of Jonathan Moulton, Esq, and Abigail Smith, deeded to Joshua land that lies partly in Exeter (34 acres) and partly in Hampton Falls....the line land. The abutters were William Sanborn, a highway on Jeremiah Lane's land, Winthrop Rowe, south by Joseph Melcher, and the heirs of Abraham Sanborn's land. This deed includes 10 acres of woodland bounded by John Leavitt, Trueworthy Robinson, James and Jon Folsom, and Capt. James Thurston except for 2 rods square for burying ground. In this deed of 1806, the parcel is known as the Moulton home place. The sale may have been prompted by a plan on Jacob Moulton's part to move to Chichester, NH with his wife, Nancy Tilton – which they did in 1810. This 1806 land transaction is significant because from that time forward, the Sanborn farm land and the land known as the "Moulton home place" became the Pike farm – the first farm in Hampton Falls that lay at the westerly most edge of the town on the line with Exeter. Moses Pike later gives Joshua another 12 acres in 1813, and Abraham Pike who was an Exeter blacksmith and nephew of Joshua, granted 30 acres that were bounded by Melchers and J. Pike. By the time the land granting was done, Joshua owned a significant number of acres.

Joshua was industrious and farmed alongside his son, Matthew. He also continued to work as a carpenter. Even with the farm income and income from his carpentry work, Joshua seems not to have been concerned to "make a profit". What drove his work ethic was to earn enough to send all of his sons to school so they could receive an education. All of his sons attended Phillips Exeter Academy and even in the 1840s it was a private school that required tuition payments. In order to assure that all of his sons could attend the Academy, Joshua arranged with Phillips Exeter to purchase the parcel of land he had been granted from Jacob Smith Moulton in 1806 – that 34 acres lying partly in Hampton Falls and partly in Exeter, which they did for one thousand dollars. In effect Joshua mortgaged his land to the Academy as tuition payment. When his last son had finished and Joshua had paid off the $1000, the school freed him of his mortgage debt and the land returned to Joshua. His educated sons may have been the most profitable crop the farm ever raised.

Neighbors of the Pikes

So who were Joshua and Hannah's neighbors while they lived on the Pike farm? What were they like and why is it important to know any of them? The importance lies in the fortunes of Joshua, Hannah and their neighbors. As their farms were profitable or not, as they aged and lost children to war, to greater employment opportunities in Boston, sales of parcels of land were their cushion for old age and their "cookie jar" money for lean times.

Going toward Hampton Falls, Joshua's easterly abutters were the Melchers. Samuel and his family came from Wales and were on their farm for four generations. They were located first in Portsmouth and then moved to Seabrook where they lived in the garrison house while they built their home in Hampton Falls. There are stories that one day, when Samuel was hoeing peas, Indians went into his cabin. Although his gun was there in the cabin, they eventually went away, perhaps not seeing Mr.

Melcher who was lying down amongst the peas. Another story allows that the Indians paid a visit on another occasion when Mrs. Melcher was home alone. Upstairs making soap when the Indians came to the door, she panicked and threw the bucket of hot lye out the window scaring them away. Samuel was remembered for his love of fishing and he spent a good deal of time at the Taylor River fishing holes, making sure "the big one" didn't get away.

Samuel's wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Benjamin Cram. Both Samuel's son and grandson were named Samuel, so it is sometimes necessary to trace land deeds by the wives' names (Esther Green and Elizabeth Hilliard) until we get to the great-grandsons, Levi and Joseph. Joseph Melcher, one of Samuel's sons, was called "judge" for his knowledge of cattle. He often took trips into Canada to purchase herds that he would drive south, spending an overnight in Hampton Falls and then moving toward Boston the following morning. Joseph was a member of the Baptist Church and an occasional preacher. Levi, his brother, was a Boston merchant.

When the Melcher farm was finally "sold" out of the direct line of descendants to the "in-laws", it went first to Joseph Melcher's granddaughter's husband, David Hawes. David was a native of New Bedford, MA, and early in life, he drifted west to CA. with his brother. They had to go by way of the Isthmus of Panama and when they arrived, David and Thomas prospected for a time until about 1857. He returned to Hampton Falls and in 1864 he settled on the Melcher Place. There he became a manufacturer of fertilizers and did quite a business from his second-from-the-line farmstead with an annual output of about 50 tons of phosphates. In 1898, all of the buildings the Hawes family occupied were burned when they were struck by lightening. They were rebuilt and after David's death in 1908, one of his children, Eleanor, married Rupert Milbury and they stayed on the homestead. The original Melcher land continued across Gove Cove into Kensington. It was Edward Melcher who lived on that southerly edge of the property. Over the years, a footpath was created from one edge of the cove across to the other as garbage was discarded, mounded and tramped down. Some of that garbage was crockery that is now quite valuable in the 21st century!

Captain Winthrop Rowe was another abutter of Joshua Pike's land on the line. Capt. Rowe was the son of Robert Rowe, Sr., from Kensington. The Rowes were supporters of Jeremiah Fogg, first pastor of the Kensington Church. Robert was also one of five people who served on the committee that hired the first School teacher in Kensington. Robert was a surveyor, a constable, assessor and selectman at various times during his life. His homestead is described as "laying on the west side of the road that goes from Kensington to Exeter (still called Drinkwater)." Robert married twice, first to Mehitable Leavitt and second to Aphia Shaw Sanborn.

Winthrop Lane was yet a third abutter of Joshua Pike's. Jeremiah Lane married Mary Sanborn. His father, Joshua Lane, had been killed by lightening and Bathsheba, his mother had delivered the address at her husband's funeral service. Jeremiah helped with boundary disputes that arose along the line between Salisbury and Andover. He was also a schoolteacher in Hampton Falls. Together, he and Mary had 6 children.

Before they moved to Chester, Jacob Smith Moulton was another neighbor who was early in his life a resident of Hampton Falls. He married Nancy Tilton and his parents were General Jonathan Moulton and Abigail Smith of Hampton.

Nehemiah Heath also lived on land nearby Joshua Pike, granted to his son-in-law, Jonthan Cram, from Mr. Melcher. His land was on part of the Melcher property that abutted Drinkwater Road as well as Winthrop Rowe, and Jeremiah Lane. Nehemiah was a sea captain who married Mary, daughter of John Gove. He died in 1718, but his daughter, Elizabeth, who had married Jonathan Cram, likely continued living on that property until her death in 1773.